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Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the subject application:

Claim 1 (canceled).

2. (original) A method of processing image information, comprising the steps of:
encoding said image information by a bit plane;
generating an index parameter indexing degradation of said image information caused by truncation of one or more bit planes based on said image information;
compressing said image information by truncating the bit planes determined based on said index parameter; and
counting a number of most significant bits of each bit plane of said image information before encoding;
wherein said index parameter is said number of most significant bits of each bit plane.

3. (original) The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of predicting distortion of said image information caused by the truncation of the bit planes based on said number of most significant bits of each bit plane, wherein said index parameter contains the predicted distortion.

4. (original) The method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising the step of predicting a slope parameter of said distortion of said image information caused by the truncation of the bit

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planes based on said number of most significant bits of each bit plane, wherein said index parameter contains the predicted distortion and the predicted slope parameter.

5. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim [[1]] 2, further comprising the step of obtaining an amount of distortion of said image information caused by the truncation of the bit planes based on said image information before encoding, wherein said index parameter contains the obtained amount of distortion.

6. (original) The method as claimed in claim 5, further comprising the step of obtaining a slope parameter of said distortion of said image information caused by the truncation of the bit planes based on said image information before encoding, wherein said index parameter contains the obtained amount of distortion and the obtained slope parameter.

7. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim [[1]] 2, wherein said image information is compressed with JPEG 2000.

8. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim [[1]] 2, wherein said image information is compressed with JPEG 2000; and the generated index parameter is stored in a comment marker of the encoded image information.

9. (original) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said comment marker is provided in a main header or a tile part header of the encoded image information.

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10. (currently amended) An image processing apparatus, comprising:

- an encoding unit that encodes image information by a bit plane;
- an index generating unit that generates index parameter indexing degradation of said image information caused by truncation of one or more bit planes based on said image information;
- a compressing unit that compresses said image information by truncating the bit planes determined based on said index parameter;
- a counting unit that counts a number of most significant bits of each bit plane of said image information before encoding, wherein said index parameter contains said number of most significant bits of each bit plane; and
- an index attaching unit that attaches said index parameter to the encoded image information;

wherein the bit planes to be truncated are determined based on the attached index parameter.

11. (original) An image processing apparatus, comprising:

- an encoding unit that encodes image information by a bit plane;
- an index generating unit that generates index parameter indexing degradation of said image information caused by truncation of one or more bit planes based on said image information;
- a compressing unit that compresses said image information by truncating the bit planes determined based on said index parameter; and
- a counting unit that counts a number of most significant bits of each bit plane of said

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image information before encoding;

wherein said index parameter contains said number of most significant bits of each bit plane.

Claim 12 (canceled).

13. (currently amended) An image processing apparatus, comprising:

an encoding unit that encodes image information by a ~~portion~~ bit plane;

an index generating unit that generates index parameter indexing degradation of said image information caused by deletion of one or more portions of said image information;

a compressing unit that compresses said image information by deleting the portions determined based on said index parameter;

a counting unit that counts a number of most significant bits of each bit plane of said image information before encoding, wherein said index parameter contains said number of most significant bits of each bit plane; and

an index attaching unit that attaches said index parameter to the encoded image information;

wherein the portions to be deleted are determined based on said index parameter.

14. (currently amended) A computer readable medium tangibly embodying a program that causes a computer to process image information [[.] utilizing a method comprising the steps of:

encoding said image information by a bit plane;

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generating index parameter indexing degradation of said image information caused by truncation of one or more bit planes based on said image information;

compressing said image information by truncating the bit planes determined based on said index parameter;

counting a number of most significant bits of each bit plane of said image information before encoding, wherein said index parameter is said number of most significant bits of each bit plane; and

attaching said index parameter to the encoded image information;

wherein the bit planes to be truncated are determined based on the attached index parameter.

15. (currently amended) A method of processing audio information, comprising the steps of:

encoding said audio information by a ~~portion~~ bit plane;

generating index parameter indexing degradation of said audio information caused by deletion of one or more portions of said audio information;

compressing said audio information by deleting the portions determined based on said index parameter;

counting a number of most significant bits of each bit plane of said image information before encoding, wherein said index parameter is said number of most significant bits of each bit plane; and

attaching said index parameter to the encoded audio information; wherein the portions to be deleted are determined based on said index parameter.

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16. (currently amended) An audio processing apparatus, comprising:
an encoding unit that encodes audio information by a ~~portion~~ bit plane;
an index generating unit that generates index parameter indexing degradation of said audio information caused by deletion of one or more portions of said audio information;
a compressing unit that compresses said audio information by deleting the portions; and
an index attaching unit that attaches said index parameter to the encoded audio information;
wherein the portions to be deleted are determined based on said index parameter.

17. (currently amended) A computer readable medium tangibly embodying a program that causes a computer to process audio information [[.] utilizing a method comprising the steps of:

encoding said audio information by a ~~portion~~ bit plane;
generating index parameter indexing degradation of said audio information caused by deletion of one or more portions of said audio information;
compressing said audio information by deleting the portions determined based on said index parameter;
counting a number of most significant bits of each bit plane of said image information before encoding, wherein said index parameter is said number of most significant bits of each bit plane; and
attaching said index parameter to the encoded audio information; [[and]]
wherein the portions to be deleted are determined based on said index parameter.

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18. (currently amended) A computer readable medium tangibly embodying a program that causes a computer to process image information [[.] utilizing a method comprising the steps of:

encoding said image information by a portion bit plane;

generating index parameter indexing degradation of said image information caused by deletion of one or more portions of said image information;

compressing said image information by deleting the portions determined based on said index parameter;

counting a number of most significant bits of each bit plane of said image information before encoding, wherein said index parameter is said number of most significant bits of each bit plane; and

attaching said index parameter to the encoded image information;

wherein the portions to be deleted are determined based on said index parameter.